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Center Director, Joe Rothenberg, speaks to employees during Focus on the Future Day events held at Wallops, May 21, 1997.

Rothenberg to Head Office of Space Flight; Diaz Named Goddard Space Flight Center Director

Joseph H. Rothenberg, Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center has been named to head the Agency's Office of Space Flight, NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin announced Jan. 8. Rothenberg will lead the Human Exploration and Development of Space enterprise.

Goldin also named Alphonso V. ("Al") Diaz to succeed Rothenberg as Goddard director. Diaz is currently the deputy director at Goddard.

As Associate Administrator for the Office of Space Flight, Rothenberg will be responsible for all NASA human space flight programs, as well as a variety of expendable launch vehicle operations and tracking and communications functions. The appointment is effective Jan. 12.

"I am pleased that Joe Rothenberg is joining our senior management team at NASA Headquarters," Goldin said. "He brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective as NASA's human space flight enterprise enters a new era with the construction of the International Space Station. NASA Goddard has thrived under his leadership over the last three years, and now I have asked him to turn his talents to another set of challenges. I know Goddard will be in capable hands with Al Diaz at the helm."

Diaz joined NASA as a cooperative education student at the Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA, in 1964. He was actively involved in the

Viking Project from 1969 to 1977 in a variety of roles. In 1979, he moved to NASA Headquarters and had a broad range of experience in the management of space science projects, including program management of the Ulysses and Galileo missions. Before moving to Goddard in 1996, he served as Deputy Associate Administrator for Space Science.

Diaz received a bachelor's in physics from St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, and a master's in physics from Old Dominion University, Norfolk. He also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management where he received a M.S. in management in 1986. He and his wife Angela Phillips Diaz reside in Alexandria, VA.

Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority Receives License to Operate Launch Site

The Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (VCSFA) received a Launch Site Operator's License to operate the Virginia Space Flight Center on Dec. 19, 1997, becoming only the third licensed commercial spaceport in the United States.

Located at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, the Virginia Space Flight Center (VSFC), developed by the VCSFA in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia, NASA, Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology and Old Dominion University, was developed to meet the needs of the commercial space launch industry.

Wallops Shorts

Pegasus Launch

Orbital Sciences Corporation successfully launched a Pegasus rocket carrying eight Orbcomm satellites on Dec. 23.

Balloon Program

A high energy astrophysics payload was launched on a NASA scientific balloon Jan. 7 from McMurdo, Antarctica. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried a liquid nitrogen cooled Germanium x-ray spectrometer and x-ray for the University of California, Berkley. Dr. Robert Lin was the principal investigator.

Personnel Depart

During the week of Jan. 5, Wallops personnel began departing for Puerto Rico to support the Coqui Dos campaign from Feb. 12 through April 9. Coqui Dos is a continuation of a 1992 study using 11 suborbital sounding rockets to examine atmospheric turbulence, composition and electrical properties. Such information will ultimately help the reliability of radio and satellite communications. The launches will be from the Camp Tortuguero Recreation Area near Vega Baja, Puerto Rico.

Space Concert

Wallops personnel will be assisting the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra with a unique Space Concert. The concert will be Saturday evening, Jan. 31 and Sunday afternoon, Feb. 1. Volunteers are needed to staff displays on each day and to assist with the set-up prior to the concert. Anyone interested in helping is asked to call the Public Affairs Office, X1584.

Engineers Week

Volunteers are needed for Engineers Week activities during the week of Feb. 23. Available employees will fill requests from area teachers to speak to classes or do short demonstrations in the classroom. For more information, call the Public Affairs Office, x1584.

King Holiday

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday will be observed Jan. 19. His actual birthday is Jan. 15.

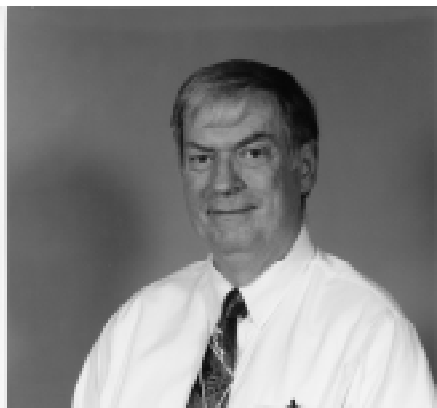
Monthly Morning Coffee

The first Morning Coffee for 1998 will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21, in the cafeteria, Bldg. E-2. All employees are invited to attend this informal session with Wallops managers.



Riley S. Bull Retires

by Tom Taylor



Riley S. Bull retired from NASA on Jan. 3 after more than 35 years of Government service. Bull, a native of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, is a 1961 graduate of Onancock High School.

Bull began his career with the Government as a fingerprint clerk for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Following a stint in Washington, D.C., he joined the apprentice program at Wallops. In 1968, Bull was awarded an associate degree and was assigned to the Information Processing Laboratory performing hardware maintenance.

In 1973, Bull transferred to the National Weather Service (NWS). When the NWS closed in 1979, Bull returned to NASA Wallops. He was assigned to the meteorology group of the Telemetry Section performing hardware maintenance. Bull transferred to the Control Center and Data Reduction Group in 1993. He was responsible for the upkeep of the custom interfaces to the Real Time Computer System and the many terminals and workstations. He served as property custodian and Facilities Operations Manager for Building E-106 and the Range Control Center.

When asked how he intended to spend his retirement, Bull replied, "Fishing, golfing, and honey-dos, in that order hopefully." His co-workers will miss his cheerful smile, and daily jokes. "Thanks, Riley, for a job well done. Have a great retirement!"

Childrens' Christmas Party is a Success

by Nicole Turner

The Second Annual Childrens' Christmas Party was held Dec. 22, 1997 in Building F-3. Approximately 70 children ages 4 to 16 were treated to games, door prizes and refreshments. During the evening, the children had their picture taken with Santa (Vernon Baily). A special treat was an appearance by Mr. Bill and his friend, Ollie.

The Black History Club would like to thank those who helped make this year's event a success. A special thanks goes to Bill Campion, Omne, for his time as the ventriloquist and for bringing Ollie. The Childrens' Christmas Party is sponsored by the Black History Club and the Morale Activities Committee.

Condolences to the families and friends of....

John R. Taylor, Jr.
who died Dec. 25, 1997.
Taylor retired in 1980
as a brick mason in the
Building Trades & Logistics Section

Conway Roberts
died recently in
League City, TX.
Roberts retired in 1988
as an aircraft pilot in the
Aircraft Operations Section.

Auto Club to Meet

by Jim Brady

Anyone interested in joining the Wallops Auto Club is invited to attend a meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15 in the third floor conference room of Building E-108. If you are interested and cannot attend, please call x-2112 for further information

Center Director's Colloquia Series

Shaping our Future: An Executive's Perspective on Leadership, Learning and Change

Who: James E. Sierk, Senior Vice President, AlliedSignal

When: Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Where: Greenbelt (Wallops via TV channel 6)

Description:

The new year brings challenges and countless possibilities for the Goddard community. Jim Sierk will address these issues in the first of the 1998 Center Director's Colloquiums. Sierk has a career of over 30 years with both AlliedSignal and Xerox. Most recently, as Senior Vice President of Quality and Productivity for AlliedSignal, his responsibility included technical excellence, manufacturing, materials management, information systems and business services. In his 26 year career at Xerox, Sierk successfully led their effort to earn the Malcom Baldrige National Quality Award.

Sierk will share his insights and lessons learned on personal and organizational strategies for change, the evolving role of leadership and continuous learning and growth.

Donald Shirk Retires

by John Gerlach



After a career in Government service spanning 35 years, Donald Shirk retired from the Observational Science Branch of the Laboratory for Hydrospheric Processes on Jan. 2.

Shirk joined NASA Wallops as an apprentice in 1964. After completing the four year apprentice program, his first major assignment was with the Program Management & Liaison Branch. In 1972, Shirk joined the Launch Vehicle Branch assembling rockets and mating payloads to them. He joined the Q-6 crew in 1973 working in the radar section. Shirk operated the data and computer system for the radar.

In 1984, Shirk joined the Observational Science Branch providing technical support for many of the scientific research projects of the Branch. He designed and helped build the wave-guide assembly for the Mara Radar System. Shirk also served as property custodian, Facilities Operations Manager for Building N-159, shipping coordinator for Branch field programs and procurement initiator.

Shirk's retirement has emphasized how much he contributed to the everyday operation of the Branch and how sorely he will be missed. In retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Helen, who retired from Wallops last year. Plans also include travel, visiting children and grandchildren, and enjoying life.

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